

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 999

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Blount Memorial Hospital on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those premier medical facilities that have compassionately and capably served the citizens of this State for generations; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville is one such entity, which is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary this year, marking three-quarters of a century of providing the highest-quality health care to all who cross its threshold; and

WHEREAS, the hospital owes its existence to three local community leaders who began working together to investigate the feasibility of a Blount County-based hospital in the late 1930s and early 1940s, as well as to the community members who came together to provide the funds, land, labor, and other resources needed to build a hospital for Blount County during the economically challenged post-war era; and

WHEREAS, that dream of a local hospital would come true on July 24, 1947; the new facility was named Blount Memorial Hospital in honor of Blount Countians who have died in the line of duty, those missing in action, and those who have served and continue to serve our country; and

WHEREAS, throughout its seventy-five-year history, Blount Memorial Hospital has forged strong relationships with its communities, working diligently to fulfill its mission to continuously improve the health and well-being of the entire community and to work in partnership with others who share its core values of hospitality, excellence, advocacy, leadership, and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the hospital system, now operating fifteen facilities in two counties, has continued to expand and upgrade technologies, facilities, and services, while expanding physician and clinical specialties, to meet the needs of the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial Hospital has garnered regional, state, and national recognition for patient outcomes in heart attack and stroke care and, in 2019, was selected to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network, an organization that recognized the hospital's commitment to high-quality, patient-centered care and its community; and

WHEREAS, the hospital's collaboration with Mayo Clinic Care Network has provided Blount Memorial physicians access to Mayo Clinic's latest research, diagnostic, and treatment resources, including e-Consults or second opinions when additional input benefits Blount Memorial patients, all at no additional cost to the patient; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial's financial impact extends deep into Blount County, as the hospital has provided more than \$400 million in charity and uncompensated care in the past ten years alone, while also being responsible for roughly fifteen to twenty percent of the Blount County economy; and

WHEREAS, despite focusing primarily on the delivery of health care through its own efforts, the hospital is also a strong supporter of local health-related organizations and community organizations, especially those that have similar goals of making Blount and surrounding counties the best they can be; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial is not simply caring for its communities today but also working to ensure the future of health care by encouraging and supporting workforce development efforts, specifically for health-related careers; and

WHEREAS, the hospital's operations and work in its communities have been heavily challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020; however, its leadership has not

wavered but has instead carried Blount County through the first pandemic in more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial Hospital has been a consummate regional and statewide leader during the pandemic, as it was one of the first hospitals in East Tennessee and the State to implement COVID-19 testing, administer lifesaving therapeutics, and make COVID-19 vaccines available to the community; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to honor Blount Memorial Hospital's rich history, its dedication to delivering high-quality health care close to home, and its commitment to ensuring the future of health care on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the employees, physicians, volunteers, and board members of Blount Memorial Hospital on the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, saluting those who have given their time and talents throughout the hospital's history to support the overall health of those in and around the hospital's communities making Blount County a special place in which to live, work, and play.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.